

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-3, 6, and 7 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 3 are independent and have been amended herein. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended.

In the final Office Action dated April 23, 2007, Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,652 (Tsuji).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 relates to a method of controlling a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit. The printing apparatus includes a first control unit which controls operation of the printing apparatus, and a second control unit which can operate independently of the first control unit. The method comprises an instruction generation step, an acquisition step, and a control step. The instruction generation step causes the first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit of the printhead. The acquisition step causes the second control unit to receive the instruction generated by the first control unit in the instruction generation step, generate an address for accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the instruction, access the storage unit

at the address, and acquire the specific information corresponding to the instruction. The control step causes the second control unit to drive and control the printhead on the basis of information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired in the acquisition step in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition step includes a generation step and a read step. The generation step generates an access signal containing the address corresponding to the identification name designated by the instruction generated in the instruction generation step from the storage unit. The read step accesses the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated in the generation step and reading out the specific information.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the instruction includes information designating an identification name of the specific information, that is independent from an address of the storage unit to be accessed. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite that the generation step generates the access signal by looking up a table corresponding to the printhead mounted on the printing apparatus among a plurality of tables which are provided in correspondence with a plurality of types of printheads and makes identification names designated by the instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other.

By this arrangement, it is possible to use, for reading out desired data from a storage unit, an identification name that is independent from an address of the storage unit. As a result, it is not necessary for the main body to consider the memory address that will change depending on the type of the printhead. That is, even if a printhead having a

different memory map is attached, the main body can acquire necessary data from the printhead without any modifications.

In contrast, the patent to Tsuji is not understood to disclose or suggest the generation of an access signal by looking up a table corresponding to the printhead mounted on the printing apparatus among a plurality of tables which are provided in correspondence with a plurality of types of printheads and makes identification names of specific information, which are independent from an address of the storage unit to be accessed, designated by an instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other.

Rather, the patent to Tsuji is understood to address a problem that a printing process or a response is delayed because an apparatus main body controlling section 2 accesses a non-volatile memory in a bit serial manner (note column 1, lines 44-51). To solve this problem, Tsuji is understood to save data stored in non-volatile memories 4, 5 into RAMs 17, 18, respectively (note column 14, lines 13-25). Apparatus main body controlling section 2 is understood to transfers data and address information to memory access controlling section 3 to access RAMs 17, 18 instead of accessing the non-volatile memories, to thereby speed up the response. In addition, at column 4, lines 40-55, Tsuji is understood to merely teach that the memory access controlling section 3 is provided between the printer main body 2 and memories 4 and 5. The Tsuji patent is understood to fail to teach or suggest a plurality of tables provided for a plurality of types of printheads, as does the present invention.

The Office Action cites column 4, lines 40-55 of the Tsuji patent to show that “generation means has, in correspondence with a plurality of types of printheads, a plurality of tables which makes the identification names designated by the instruction and the storage addresses of the storage unit correspond to each other, and generates the access signal by looking up a table corresponding to a printhead mounted on the printing apparatus among the plurality of tables”. But, Applicant submits that this portion of the Tsuji patent is not understood to disclose such plurality of tables, as can be noted by examining this portion of the patent:

Thus, the recording apparatus 1 according to the present invention has the memory access controlling section 3 between the apparatus main body controlling section 2 and the non-volatile memories 4 and 5 so that the memory accesses controlling section 3 can execute writes to and readouts from the non-volatile memories 4 and 5, thereby making it unnecessary for the apparatus main body controlling section 2 to directly access the non-volatile memories 4 and 5. Accordingly, the amount of processing to be executed by the apparatus main body controlling section 2 can be reduced. Further the memory access controlling section 3 reads out data stored in the non-volatile memories 4 and 5 and stores them in the RAM. In response to a readout request issued by the apparatus main body controlling section 2, data stored in the RAM are read out for a response, thereby enabling a fast response to the readout request.

For all of these reasons, amended Claim 1 is not understood to be anticipated by the Tsuji patent. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. And because Claim 3 has been amended in a similar way, Applicant also respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn. Dependent Claims 2, 6,

and 7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCIS_WS 1536155v1